

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-02 AID-05 IO-04 EB-04 NSF-01 NAS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6482

INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

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BRAZILIA FOR BOWDLER

MEXICO FOR POLLACK

DEPT PASS ALL ARA DIPLOMATIC POSTS

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: PFOR VE

SUBJ: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: STATE 233736

1. IN ARRANGING FOR POLLACK VISIT, EMBASSY OFFICER CONSULTED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS TO ASCERTAIN EXTENT OF ITS INVOLVEMENT AND TO IDENTIFY OFFICIALS CONCERNED WITH WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. LEONARDO DIAZ GONZALEZ, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY, SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAS NOT BEEN INVOLVED WITH WORKING GROUP MEETINGS AND RECOMMENDED THAT THE EMBASSY SEEK APPOINTMENT FOR POLLACK TO SEE DR MARTA RAMOS, HEAD OF CORDIPLAN'S TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DIVISION.

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2. THE AMBASSADOR HOSTED A WORKING LUNCHEON OCT 29

FOR POLLACK ATTENDED BY VENEZUELAN GOVT OFFICIALS REPRESENTING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION (CONICIT), THE OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, THE INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN TRADE AND CORDIPLAN IN ADDITION TO GENERAL DISCUSSION AT THE LUNCHEON OF THE US POSITION, POLLACK, ACCOMPANIED BY ECONOMIC COUNSELOR, MET OCT 30 WITH DR WINSTON BRICENO, CONICIT COORDINATOR FOR SPECIAL STUDIES(LUIS MATOS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CONICIT, IS TRAVELING ABROAD). POLLACK MADE A COMPLETE PRESENTATION TO BRICENO OF US TALKING POINTS AND ASKED FOR HIS REACTION, BRICENO SAID THAT HIS COMMENTS WERE PERSONAL AND PRELIMINARY, BUT HE THOUGHT THAT THE POSITION OF VENEZUELA IS SUBSTANTIALLY IN ACCORD WITH US VIEWS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED MECHANISM FOR DEALING WITH SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. HE THOUGHT THAT US VIEWS CONFORMED WITH RESULTS OF THE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS.

3. BRICENO COMMENTED THAT PROBLEMS REMAINING WERE MAINLY OF A POLITICAL NATURE. LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES HAD EXPECTED THAT THE US DELEGATION AT THE RECENT SUB-GROUP MEETING IN CARACAS WOULD RESPOND TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN BRASILIA IN A MORE SPECIFIC WAY, SO THAT CONCRETE CONCLUSIONS COULD BE DRAWN. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THAT THE US HAD NOT RESPONDED TO THE QUESTION ON TIED CREDITS. POLLACK REPLIED BY INDICATING THAT THE US UNDERSTANDS THAT THE PURPOSED OF THE EXERCISE ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TEHCNOLOGY IS NOT TO PROVIDE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WITH DEFINITE SOLUTIONS, BUT RATHER TO SUGGEST A WAY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ISSUES TO BE DEALT WITH. POLLACK SAID THAT US PROPOSALS ON ORGANIZATION ARE DESIGNED PRECISELY TO PROVIDE FOR THIS NEED.

4. BRICENO AGREED WITH THE US POSITION ON THE NEED TO UTILIZE EXISTING INSTITUTIONS RATHER THAN TO CREATE NEW ORGANIZATIONS. BRICENO MADE NO COMMENT ON US INTERNAL ORGANIZATION EXCEPT TO EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT WHATEVER STRUCTURE IS SET UP WOULD BE ABLE TO RESPOND QUICKLY AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHORITATIVELY.

5. IN A SEPARATE MEETING WITH DR RAMOS AND CORDIPLAN OFFICIALS, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT VENEZUELAN PARTICIPANTS AT SUB-GROUP III MEETINGS (OR AT LEAST THE CORDIPLAN REPRESENTATIVE) DID NOT FULLY GRASP THE FACT THAT NO AGREEMENT WAS REACHED FOR THE FORMING OF A LATIN AMERICAN COMMITTEE TO ACT STRICTLY FOR LATIN

AMERICAN COUNTRIES WITH NO CONTACT WITH THE US APPARENTLY THEY UNDERSTOOD THE AGREEMENT ON THE NEED FOR A LATIN AMERICAN CONSENSUS AS AN AGREEMENT TO FORM SUCH A COMMITTEE. THE CORDIPLAN GROUP AGREED THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE WORKED OUT BEFORE THE MEETING SCHEDULED IN SANTIAGO. THEY APPEARED TO GO ALONG WITH POLLACK'S SUGGESTION FOR AN ORGANIZATION OF LATIN AMERICAN STATES WITH INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND POSSIBLY THE PARTICIPATION OF SOME DEVELOPED NATIONS.

6. COMMENTS: IT APPEARS THAT DR LUIS MATOS OF CONICIT IS THE PERSON REALLY IN CHARGE OF ESTABLISHING THE VENEZUELAN POSITION ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. BRICENO, HIS DEPUTY, AGREED THAT AFTER MATOS RETURNS TO VENEZUELA AND HE HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REPORT TO HIM, HE OR MATOS WOULD CONTACT THE EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC COUNSELOR FOR A FURTHER COMMENTARY ON THE US POSITION REPRESENTED IN THE TALKING POINTS LEFT WITH HIM.

7. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS HAS TAKEN LITTLE OR NO INTEREST IN THE WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. IT APPEARS THAT DR. MANUEL PEREZ GUERRERO, MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MAY BE A KEY FIGURE AT THE CABINET LEVEL IN DETERMINING VENEZUELA'S POLICY ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. THE AMBASSADOR WILL SEEK AN APOINTMENT WITH PEREZ GUERRERO TO EMPHASIZE FURTHER THE US POSITION AND OBTAIN ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON VENEZUELA'S VIEWS.
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